

## Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 RSC-01 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /086 W

----- 100906

O 250840Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6029

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 228

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1615

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, CB, BC

SUBJECT: KHMER AT 29TH UNGA

REF: A) STATE 251028; B) STATE 259378

1. CHARGE CALLED ON SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CHARLES TIBONE NOV 22 TO DISCUSS CURRENT SITUATION IN CAMBODIA (AS PROVIDED REF A) AND ELICIT VIEWS ON BOTSWANA POSITION REGARDING THE KHMER CREDENTIALS QUESTION.

2. CHARGE EMPHASIZED THAT MEANINGOF DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA WAS THAT THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT FORCES WERE CONTINUING TO IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCE AND THAT THE COMMUNIST FORCES WERE LOSING HEAVILY IN MANPOWER WHILE GAINING NO TERRITORY.

3. TIBONE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT, AFTER LENGTHY CONSIDERATION, HAS DECIDED TO ABSTAIN ON BOTH THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE AND THE PROCEDURAL ISSUE. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH BOTSWANA AS A MEMBER OF THE NON-ALIGNED BLOC HAS AN IMPLICIT RESPONSIBILITY TO SIHANOUK TO SUPPORT HIM, AND ALTHOUGH THEY TEND TO SEE THE

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KHMER COMMUNISTS AS AN UNDERDOG (WHICH THEY WOULD TEND TO

SUPPORT), THEY ALSO PREFER TO DEAL WITH AND RECOGNIZE ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENTS AND THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THE STRONGLY HELD VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA.

4. BECAUSE OF THE TWO CONTENDING PRESSURES--IMPLICIT SUPPORT FOR SIHANOUK VS. THE RECOGNIZED TECHNICAL LEGITIMACY OF THE PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT--THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED THAT THE MOST EVENHANDED AND FAIR THING TO DO IS TO ABSTAIN.

5. CHARGE DISCUSSED THE ISSUES AGAIN IN GREAT DETAIL POINTING OUT THAT SIHANOUK'S DEMISE WAS BY ENTIRELY LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS CONDUCTED BY HIS OWN LIEUTENANTS AND PARLIAMENT, THAT THE PRESSURE FOR HIS REMOVAL WAS CAUSED BY HIS ACQUIESCENCE IN MASSIVE NORTHERN VIETNAMESE PRESENCE ON CAMBODIAN TERRITORY, THAT THE PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT WAS THE EFFECTIVE RULER OF MOST OF THE POPULATION, THAT THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WERE ENTIRELY CLEAR IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE GKR AND THEIR OPPOSITION TO SIHANOUK, AND THAT THE GKR ITSELF AND THE ASEAN RESOLUTION CALLED FOR NEGOTIATIONS WHICH THE KHMER COMMUNISTS REFUSED. CHARGE NOTED THAT THE SOVIET UNION RETAINED ITS EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH MUCH TO SIHANOUK'S CONSTERNATION.

6. CHARGE NOTED FINALLY THAT IN ALL THREE ASIAN CONFLICTS--CAMBODIA, VIET NAM AND KOREA-- THE COMMUNIST SIDE REFUSED TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE NON-COMMUNIST SIDE WITH OUR SUPPORT WAS ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP NEGOTIATIONS. HE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT A VICTORY AT THE UN FOR THE CAMBODIAN COMMUNISTS WOULD STIFFEN THEIR REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE RATHER THAN ENHANCE THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS.

7. TIBONE ACKNOWLEDGED REMARKS BUT ASSERTED THAT IN SPITE OF THEM, HIS GOVERNMENT FELT THE NEED TO BE NEUTRAL IN THIS MATTER IN THE HOPES THAT IT WOULD ENCOURAGE BOTH SIDES TO TALK TO EACH OTHER.

8. COMMENT: REF B HAS JUST COME IN; USUN 5364 IS NOT YET AVAILABLE. PRESIDENT AND MINISTER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ARE OUT  
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OF THE COUNTRY. AMBASSADOR, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM MBABANE, WILL SEEK EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH PRESIDENT AFTER HIS RETURN AND WHEN INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN USUN 5364 ARRIVE.  
BOLEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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